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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. STANTON).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

December 1, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable GREG STANTON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

INFLATION IN DAILY LIFE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, real wages have decreased 7 out of the past 9 months. The increase in the cost of consumer goods is at a 30-year high. What do these numbers actually mean in your daily life?

You wake up in the morning and you go to make breakfast. You want scrambled eggs? They will be 11.6 percent more expensive. What about bacon? At a 20.2 percent increase on bacon, you

might even take that off the menu. Don't forget your morning cup of coffee that is 5.6 percent more expensive.

You make a mad dash to get the kids ready for school and then out the door. That will be a 4.3 percent increase in the cost of their clothing and a 7.5 percent increase in the cost of their shoes. You have gotten the kids on the bus and now you can go on to work yourself.

Gas prices are now 51.3 percent higher, so it is going to cost you a lot more to drive to work. Have you been thinking about that new car? You can forget that, prices are up 9.8 percent on new cars. You want to save money and maybe get a used car? Good luck with that because they are up 26.4 percent.

You arrive at work, but you realize you left your lunch at home. The cost of a plate at a nearby diner is up 5.3 percent. On your way home, you stop to pick up your kids to take them to practice. You make sure to tell them to take it easy though and make sure they don't wear out their sports equipment because their sports equipment is up 8 percent.

Now you are home for dinner and those pork chops you are making for dinner are up 15.9 percent. The canned vegetables are up 6.6 percent.

Your long day is finally over. You made it. Time to kick back, relax, watch some TV—wait a minute, the TV last year that you bought for Christmas is up 10.4 percent, and there is no doubt that last Christmas it was down that much.

So what is the difference here? I think it is called the Biden economy. Maybe if people in the administration spent a day in the shoes of the average person, the person that goes to work every day, the person that has to pay these prices that we are talking about, maybe then they would realize that the policies that are being done right now and being put in place right now and have been put in place over the last 10

months is the cause of this, and that they would work with us to get it fixed.

HONORING ROSA PARKS ON THE 66TH ANNIVERSARY OF HER ARREST AND THE BEGINNING OF THE MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an American pioneer and one of the greatest heroines of our time, Mrs. Rosa Parks on the 66th anniversary of her arrest in Montgomery, Alabama.

Today, 66 years ago, Rosa Parks took a bold stand against racial discrimination by refusing to give up her seat on a public bus in Montgomery, Alabama. Rosa Parks' refusal to give up her seat did more than simply desegregate the bus systems of Montgomery. Her dignified courage inspired a movement that changed our Nation.

Rosa Parks' quiet refusal to surrender her seat to a White passenger on December 1, 1955, sparked a city-wide boycott of the Montgomery bus system that lasted 1 whole year and broke the very will of a city heavily steeped in segregation.

Biographer Douglas Brinkley recounted the powerful moment in his biography of Rosa Parks, he writes:

Are you going to stand up? the driver demanded. Rosa Parks looked straight at him and said, No. Flustered and not quite sure what to do, the bus driver retorted: Well, I'm going to have you arrested. And Rosa Parks sat next to the window, and quietly said: You may do that.

Her soft yet forceful response led to an arrest, a \$10 fine, and the beginning of the most important demonstration in American history. The Montgomery bus boycott stands as a powerful testament of the will of a disenfranchised people to work collectively to achieve extraordinary social change.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Today, while we commemorate the progress that has been made, we must also recommit ourselves to the struggle and the fight for equal justice. We must remain vigilant in the struggle for voting rights, criminal justice reform, and economic equity.

Foot soldiers like Rosa Parks, Claudette Colvin, and Attorney Fred Gray, whose lifelong work in the fight for justice and equality still resonate with us today and reminds us that we cannot take for granted the battles endured by those before us; nor must we neglect our own responsibility to ensure liberty and justice.

As benefactors of the sacrifices of these brave men and women, we must be willing to answer the modern day call and to dare to be trailblazers on our own. Rosa Parks' quiet refusal to surrender her seat on December 1, 1955, inspired generations of others to continue her legacy by standing up for the values that our democracy holds dear.

Because of her contributions, I am proud to join with Congressman JIM COOPER and CBC Chairwoman JOYCE BEATTY in introducing the Rosa Parks Day Act, which would designate today, December 1, as a new Federal holiday in her honor.

This bill will ensure that her brave sacrifice lives on in American history and serves as a reminder to continue to protect the gains that we have made over 60 years ago while tackling the challenges that plague this Nation today.

While we honor the guardian of the Montgomery bus boycott today, we must also acknowledge her sacrifices and do our own responsibility as a call to action. Though Jim Crow is no more, there are modern-day challenges that require the time and talents of each of us. We must remain vigilant in seeking justice for the countless Black Americans that fall victim to police brutality.

We must remain vigilant in our commitment to continuing the fight to protect the sacred right to vote. We owe Rosa Parks and so many others nothing less.

TOO MUCH SALT IN WASHINGTON'S DIET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, middle- and lower-income households across the country are getting the short end of the stick under the so-called Build Back Better Act.

For months, House Republicans have exposed radical provisions in this bill that do nothing to help the American people or the country. One such provision is the raising of State and local tax deductions, commonly referred to as SALT.

Under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, a \$10,000 cap was placed on SALT deductions. This meant that taxpayers who

itemized their returns could deduct up to \$10,000 in certain taxes that are paid to State and local governments.

Under the so-called Build Back Better Act, the cap would be set at \$80,000. That is a \$70,000 increase in tax deductions for high-income households in America. The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget estimates that raising the SALT cap to \$80,000 equates to a gift of \$625 billion in perpetuity to wealthy Americans.

Speaker PELOSI was quoted as saying that raising SALT deductions is "about which States get the revenue they need in order to meet the needs of the people."

Mr. Speaker, that claim may sound appealing to some, but not all Members of the Democrat Party are sold. Jason Furman, the former chair of former President Obama's Council of Economic Advisers and current Harvard economist, calls this giveaway obscene.

Representative JARED GOLDEN, a Democrat from Maine, who voted against the so-called Build Back Better Act, said he was concerned about tax giveaways to millionaires. Even Senator BERNIE SANDERS came out in staunch opposition to these proposed changes for the SALT cap. Noticing a pattern here?

Consider who will be the people reaping these benefits. Here is a hint: it is not hardworking American families. With the tax deduction cap set at \$80,000, the households with the highest income would be saving \$25,900 more than they do under the current law.

The Tax Policy Center found that this \$80,000 cap would directly benefit the top 1 percent of households. Middle- and lower-income households will be left behind. With only 5.4 percent of the households earning more than \$200,000 per year in North Carolina, few people would receive this handout.

Higher-income States such as California, New York, and New Jersey have historically benefitted from SALT cap deductions—with North Carolina being far removed from the conversation.

Mr. Speaker, economic experts, Republicans, and even Democrat Members of Congress agree that Washington has too much SALT in its diet. If the majority believes upping SALT deductions and leaving both middle- and lower-income Americans behind is a viable route to take, the consequences would be a lot more than they bargained for.

The Senate should kill the so-called Build Back Better Act immediately.

DETERIORATING INFRASTRUCTURE IN TEXAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA) for 5 minutes.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to a mounting problem which is affecting every Texan: our deteriorating infrastructure.

Now, I know a thing about infrastructure. When I was a county commissioner, I saw firsthand how a lack of investment directly impacted people in my area. As a State, we regularly have received scores of C and D on our infrastructure. In my own area, it was even worse because of the damage that hurricanes and flooding did on a regular basis.

These deteriorating roads and bridges cost Texans over \$700 a year in damages and extra vehicle maintenance. That is an entire paycheck for many of the people in my district. On top of that, Houstonians have had to deal with the twin trouble of decaying roads and rapid growth.

Harris County is now home to over 700,000 more people than it had in 2010. Without significant investment, we are trying to fit more and more people onto the same deteriorating roads.

Mr. Speaker, the traffic is so bad in parts of my city that I and many other Houstonians simply avoid entire neighborhoods altogether. This directly hurts small business owners who depend on infrastructure for people to reach their stores.

Mr. Speaker, poor infrastructure does more than hurt families' pocketbooks, it has already cost us lives. Everyone in Texas remembers the winter storm this past February that left millions freezing in their homes without power.

The extreme cold weather brought State power systems to the brink of collapse. Over 200 Texans died in this storm, many of them seniors, from cold weather exposure. It didn't have to be this way. The State government had the choice the last time this kind of storm happened in 2011 to take the advice of Federal regulators and prepare our power grid for winter emergencies. Instead, the State has done nothing and will have to bear the cost.

Many Houstonians will also remember Hurricane Ike, Hurricane Rita, and Hurricane Harvey, it comes one after another. Every year, another "storm of the century."

□ 1015

These storms have caused hundreds of deaths, billions in damages, and displaced thousands from their homes in Houston. Mr. Speaker, I could go on and on, but the point is clear: my district is facing a clear and present danger from the failure to invest in reliable infrastructure.

During the previous administration, we heard promise after promise from Republicans. They were going to address this with the so-called infrastructure weeks. I can't even remember how many of those we had, but it certainly stretched for 4 years. Promises made, promises broken.

But I am proud that today I can go back to my district and say that these critical investments are finally—finally—on their way. Thanks to President Biden's commitment to working with Congress to get this done, Texas will receive \$35 billion to rebuild our infrastructure.